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Whipple

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- (54) **ARTIFICIAL DISC**
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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An improved artificial disc has a superior and inferior member. The superior member has an upper body portion and a flange portion for positioning and attachment to an upper vertebral body. The inferior member has a lower body portion and a flange portion for positioning and attachment to a lower vertebral body. The upper body portion and the lower body portions, when positioned in a disc space between the upper and lower vertebral bodies and affixed to a respective vertebral body at the flange portion, are independently movable relative to the other along complimentary bearing surfaces on each of the superior and inferior members. The complimentary bearing surfaces are self-aligned by a magnetic attraction force generated by at least one first permanent magnet in either the inferior or superior member.

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16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

